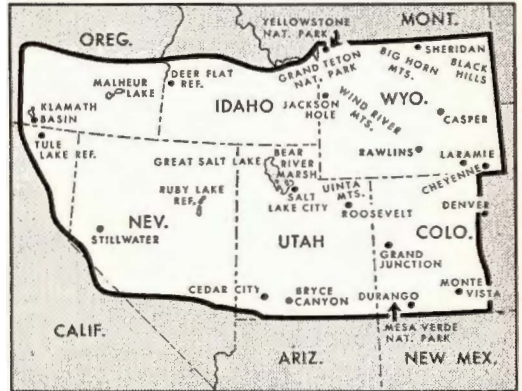


GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUN—TAIN REGION—In many areas April and May were, for the most part, cold and wet. In many



areas the spring extended into the middle of June. Owing to much snow on the higher ground, many species stayed longer in the valleys than usual, such as a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Durango, Colo. (OR). The moisture situation remains amazing. The Great Basin, normally almost a desert, has more water than in many years. At Ruby Lakes, Nev. the level is the highest in 52 years (CEL). Waterfowl are having an excellent breeding season—it should be one of the best on record. The migration of passerines was late and poor. Dennis Carter, at Arches National Monument, is quite effectively rewriting the status of the birds of southeastern Utah. Only the high lights will be recorded. He decries that phe-

nomenon of western migration: the lack of waves of migration.

• We found out what happens when an 18-inch wet snowstorm interrupts migration as it did in central Wyoming on May 7-9. First, migration was stopped and a wave of migrants was noted. Secondly, the birds survived very well (OKS). Sparrows got under bushes and warblers found food, in spite of the snow, among the early leaves and tree blossoms.

Swans—Two nests of Trumpeters were found at Malheur, Oreg. (HFD) and 4 nests were found at Ruby Lakes, Nev. by the end of the period. One nest hatched 6 cygnets (CEL).

Ducks and Geese—At Malheur, where water conditions are excellent and back to the level of 1958, the peak of the waterfowl migration was in early April (HFD). The numbers were the same as five years ago: 100,000 Snow Geese; 215,000 ducks. Canada Geese were found nesting on May 29 at Bridgeport Reservoir, in the Great Basin near Mono Lake, Calif.—a far south breeding area for this bird (TC, Jr.).

Eagles—Twelve young Golden Eagles were banded this spring near Bear River Marshes, Utah. Study of these nests shows no sign of young lambs or other domestic animals (VTW). It is believed that there are more breeding Golden Eagles in central Wyoming than any other part of the West (OKS). More evidence is accumulating that these birds do not prey on young sheep, as has been alleged by some sheepmen and denied by others. As eagles do feed on carrion (there are always some dead sheep on a sheep range, particularly in spring) this problem is a difficult one for the casual observer.

Cranes—The *Whooping Crane* at Monte Vista Research Station, Colo. is doing well (CRB).

Shorebirds—A Whimbrel was seen near Logan, Utah, May 7 (DMF, et al.). This species has been recorded as casual in Utah but it may have been overlooked. It is more common to the east in Wyoming than the published records would indicate. A Mountain Plover was collected near Rockville, Zion Park region, March 29 (RW). This bird has been seen only casually in Utah.

Owls—Another Flammulated Owl was banded at Springdale near Zion Canyon on April 7 (RW). Two were banded in the same area a year ago.

Swifts—There were 8 Black Swifts at Parowan Canyon in southern Utah, May 13 (SM). This seems to be the only place in this area where these birds are seen regularly and in numbers.

Hummingbirds—There are persistent reports of sight records of Rivoli's Hummingbirds from the Grand Junction area, Colo. This report is from Piñon Mesa (LEE). The species is considered to be only casual in Colorado.

Flycatchers—It is a real problem to identify migrating *Empidonax* flycatchers in the West. *Empidonax* are common in the West, and except for the Western, they look the same. As they usually do not sing on migration, bird-watchers are frustrated! Dennis Carter has found these birds particularly common and impossible to identify. The first Olive-sided Flycatcher at Rockville, Oreg. was on May 26 (CM)

which is about as usual.

Warblers—There were very few unusual warblers recorded for April and May—perhaps because of late arrival. A Myrtle Warbler was seen in Arches Nat'l Monument, Utah, April 28 (DLC) and another nearby on May 11. While these are the first records for southeastern Utah the occurrence of this bird may not be unusual. Dennis Carter, now stationed at Arches Nat'l Monument, is a competent observer. Two Magnolia Warblers, rare spring migrants, were seen at Cheyenne, Wyo., May 27 (MEH). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen for the first time in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park by the assistant naturalist (PM).

Orioles—A Baltimore Oriole was seen at Ocean Lake, Wyo., May 23 (LM)—a first record for the Region. Orchard Orioles were again found at Beulah in the Black Hills of Wyoming, May 30 (OKS). This is the only area in the state where they have been seen.

Grosbeaks—A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was killed flying into a window at Arches Nat'l Monument, May 26 (DLC). This is the second specimen and 4th record for Utah. The first specimen was collected at Springdale near Zion Park on May 3 (RW). Evening Grosbeaks reappeared again. At Durango they were seen on April 26, but the spring flight was not as good as usual (OR).

Buntings—Lark Buntings were seen on Highway 6 in Utah near the Colorado-Utah border on May 12 (DLC). This is the first record for southeastern Utah.

Sparrows—A Swamp Sparrow was seen in Winter Canyon, Arches Nat'l Monument, May 19 (DLC). This bird is believed to be casual in Utah. A Field Sparrow was seen in Cheyenne, Wyo., April 16 (MEH). This sparrow is rarely seen in southeastern Wyoming. A Harris' Sparrow at Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park stayed at a feeder all winter and into late April (MKP).

Contributors.—CRB, Charles R. Bryant; DLC, Dennis L. Carter; TC, Jr., Theodore Chase, Jr.; HFD, Harold F. Duebbert; DMF, Dennis M. Forsythe; LEE, Lucy E. Ela; MEH, May E. Hanesworth; CEL, C. E. Laroche; CM, Carol MacIves; LM, Louis Moos; PM, Pat Murphy; SM, Stewart Murie; MKP, Merlin K. Potts; OR, Oppie Reames; OKS, Oliver K. Scott; RW, Roland Wauer; VTW, Vanez T. Wilson.—DR. OLIVER K. SCOTT, 437 East 13th Street, Casper, Wyo.